



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

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June 15, 2012

Division of Administrative Law
P.O. Box 44033
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4033

VIA HAND DELIVERY

**RE: In the Matter of The Cartesian Company, Inc.
Agency Tracking No. 2011-835**

Dear Clerk:

In accordance with La. R.S. 42:1141C(3) the Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its June 15, 2012 meeting, issued charges against The Cartesian Company, Inc., for allegedly violating provisions of the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics (La. R.S. 42:1101 *et seq.*). Attached herewith for filing into the Court's record, is the original charge issued against The Cartesian Company, Inc.. In accordance with La. R.S. 42:1141E, on today's date, the Louisiana Board of Ethics has provided The Cartesian Company, Inc., with a written copy of the charges by way of Certified U.S. Mail.

The Board is in possession of the following contact information regarding The Cartesian Company, Inc.:

*The Cartesian Company, Inc.
Through its Counsel of Record
R. Gray Sexton
10715 N. Oak Hills Pkwy.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810*

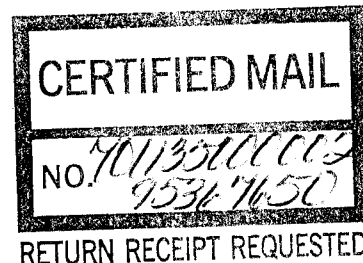
If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact the Staff of the Louisiana Ethics Board at 225-219-5600 or 1-800-842-6630.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Michael Dupree
Designated Trial Attorney
For the Board

Enclosure



**STATE OF LOUISIANA
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW**

**LOUISIANA BOARD
OF ETHICS**

IN THE MATTER OF

THE CARTESIAN COMPANY, INC.

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DOCKET NO.

AGENCY TRACKING NO. 2011-835

CHARGES

The Louisiana Board of Ethics voted on June 14th, 2012 to and does hereby file the following charges:

1.

The Lafayette Public Trust Financing Authority ("LPTFA") was created under the authority of La. R.S. 9:2341. The public functions of the LPTFA include but are not limited to housing, mortgage finance and related services, activities, facilities, and properties.

2.

The LPTFA is subject to the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics as indicated in La. R.S. 9:2341D.

3.

From November 2003 through November of 2009, Greg Gachassin, served as a trustee and member of the Lafayette Public Trust Financing Authority ("LPTFA").

4.

In 2005, Greg Gachassin informed the LPTFA that the state's annual allocation of tax exempt bonds for low interest home buying programs were not being fully utilized, and that little, if any, of the loan funds were being originated in Lafayette Parish.

5.

During LPTFA meetings from 2006 through 2009, Greg Gachassin submitted proposals, presentations, and recommendations to the LPTFA related to low-income housing developments.

6.

During LPTFA meetings from 2006 through 2009, Greg Gachassin participated in the discussion of and the creation of resolutions of the LPTFA to assist the Lafayette Housing Authority develop, and finance a low income housing development which would become known as the *Villa Gardens* development.

7.

In October of 2009, the LPTFA organized a low-income housing development known as *Cypress Trails*.

8.

The Cypress Trails low-income housing development project was created by the LPTFA as a non-profit corporation "to act as an instrumentality" of the LPTFA known as the Cypress Trails Corporation. Greg Gachassin is listed as the Articles of Incorporation as a Commissioner and Officer of the Corporation.

9.

In November of 2009, a partnership in commendam bearing the name Cypress Trails Limited Partnership was created as a non-profit organization. Initially, the Articles of Partnership were between Cypress Trails Corporation, the Housing Authority of the City of Lafayette and Richard Becker. Greg Gachassin signed the Articles of Partnership on behalf of the LPTFA and the Cypress Trails Corporation.

10.

On November 1, 2009, the Cypress Trails Corporation on behalf of the Cypress Trails Limited Partnership signed a \$500,000 Project Consultant Agreement with The Cartesian Company.

11.

Greg Gachassin signed the Project Consultant Agreement with the Cypress Trails Limited Partnership as the President of The Cartesian Company.

12.

On November 1, 2009, Villa Gardens Limited Partnership signed a \$500,000 Project Consultant Agreement with The Cartesian Company.

13.

Greg Gachassin signed the Project Consultant Agreement with Villa Gardens Limited Partnership as the President of The Cartesian Company.

14.

On November 4, 2009, the board of the LPTFA adopted a resolution authorizing Greg Gachassin as its Chairman, the vice-chairman, and general counsel to "do all things necessary and advisable to cause Cypress Trails to proceed to closing."

15.

On November 6, 2009, Greg Gachassin incorporated and became the president/director of The Cartesian Company, Inc.

16.

On November 10, 2009, The Cartesian Company received payments for consulting services provided to the Villa Gardens Limited Partnership.

17.

On November 17, 2009, Greg Gachassin resigned his position as chairman/trustee of the Lafayette Public Trust Financing Authority.

18.

On November 19, 2009, Greg Gachassin submitted an invoice to Villa Gardens Limited Partnership in the amount of \$50,000 for "consultation and initial payment".

19.

In December of 2009, Greg Gachassin, President of The Cartesian Company, appeared before the LPTFA at a meeting to provide the LPTFA with an update on the Cypress Trails project.

20.

Based on the foregoing facts, The Cartesian Company, Inc., violated La. R.S. 42:1113B of the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics.

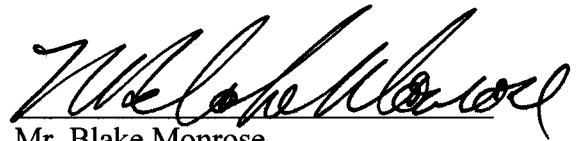
21.

Based on the foregoing facts, The Cartesian Company, Inc., violated La. R.S. 42:1121 of the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics.

22.

In accordance with La. R.S. 42:1141C (3)(b)(iv), the Board designates, Michael Dupree and Kathleen Allen as the Board's trial attorneys in this matter.

WHEREFORE, the Louisiana Board of Ethics requests that the Ethics Adjudicatory Board (a) conduct a hearing on the foregoing charges; (b) determine that the Cartesian Company, Inc., violated La. R.S. 42:1113B and La. R.S. 42:1121, with respect to the foregoing counts; and (c) assess an appropriate penalty in accordance with the recommendation of the Louisiana Board of Ethics to be submitted at the hearing.



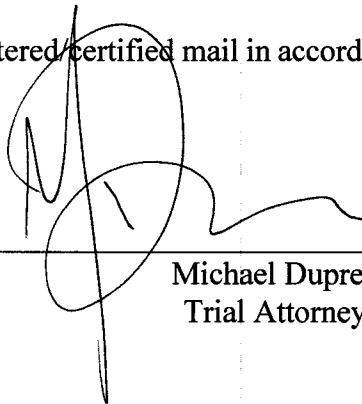
Mr. Blake Monroe
Chairman, Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
Telephone: (225) 219-5600
Facsimile: (225) 381-7271

SERVICE INFORMATION:

The Cartesian Company, Inc.,
Through its Counsel of Record
R. Gray Sexton
10715 N. Oak Hills Parkway
Baton Rouge, LA 70810

CERTIFICATE:

I hereby certify that a copy of this document has been forwarded to the Respondent or his Counsel of Record by registered/certified mail in accordance with La. R.S. 42:1141E(1)(a), on this 15 day of June, 2012.



Michael Dupree
Trial Attorney